

Q . What is litter?

A . Litter means all waste materials, odor-producing or nonodor-producing, including but not limited to, bottles, glass, cigarette butts, crockery, cans, scrap metal, paper, plastic, rubber, garbage, building materials, disposable packages or containers, thrown or deposited any place that's not considered a trash receptacle.

Q . What is littering?

A . To drop, discard, throw, leave or otherwise dispose of trash or unwanted matter in or upon any public or private property except in designated areas.

Q . Is tossing a banana peel or an apple core out of car window littering?

A . Yes. Even food, which will certainly break down faster than paper or plastic, is considered litter when it is thrown in a place it doesn't belong. Also, food along roadsides can attract animals that may be killed by traffic.

Q . What about cigarette butts?

A . There's a reason that cars come with ashtrays. Many people don't realize that tossing cigarette butts is littering. Cigarette butts are unsightly and take years to decompose. Lit cigarettes can cause forest fires. And deer like the taste of cigarette butts—which poses a danger to deer and to drivers.

Q . Is walking past a discarded paper cup littering?

A . No. But if everyone in Lynchburg would pick up trash on his or her property just a few times each month, the litter problem would be greatly reduced. That's another problem with litter—wind and rain can carry it all over town—it takes a little help from everyone to keep a city clean.

Q . Can someone get charged for littering even if they are unaware something flew out of their car window or out of the back of their truck?

A . Yes! The driver could be charged with littering in that scenario, even if they were unaware that litter had left their vehicle.



**The City of Lynchburg
Waste Management Division
847-1806**



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LITTER.

It's Costly,
consuming \$150,000 in city
tax dollars annually.

It's Criminal,
punishable with fines up to
\$1,000 and 10 days in jail.

It's Careless,
causing injury to both
people and animals.



CITY OF LYNCHBURG • WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

It's costly

In 1998 Lynchburg spent more than \$150,000 to clean up litter and illegal dumps. The City could have spent a lot more—because litter is a problem that just seems to get worse.

It's extremely important to keep our city clean. Studies show that people are less likely to litter when an area is litter-free and more likely to keep littering when an area is already trashed. In addition to hurting community pride, littered areas can have a serious economic impact on Lynchburg. When cities are not clean, they have trouble attracting new businesses and keeping established ones.

It's criminal

If you litter, you could be charged between \$50 and \$500 for your first offense. If you are convicted of littering twice in the same year, you may be fined between \$100 and \$500. Third-time litterers are fined at least \$500 (and up to \$1,000) and can receive a 10-day jail sentence.

It's careless

People who litter are sending us a signal—that they don't care.

According to Keep America Beautiful, Inc., people who litter:

- don't take responsibility for their property or public property, even beaches and parks.
- believe that someone else—like city workers—will clean up their trash.
- see a spot that is already trashed and think their litter won't make a difference.

We've all seen people throw things out of cars and drop trash in public places. But did you know that carelessness and poor handling of household trash are the most common ways that our city gets littered?

Consider these seven primary sources of litter that were identified by Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

How Lynchburg Gets Trashed:

- household trash, especially when it escapes from curbside containers
- dumpsters used by businesses
- loading docks
- construction and demolition sites
- trucks with uncovered loads
- pedestrians
- motorists

What you can do to fight litter

Adopt-A-Street

The popular Adopt-A-Street program is just one way to join Lynchburg in the fight against litter. Adopt-A-Street groups performed more than 200 cleanups in 1998 alone, using about 1,200 bags to collect approximately 45,000 pounds of litter and trash. These concerned people saved the city at least \$6,000 in personnel time and \$1,300 in equipment mileage expense.

Streets are available all over the city for adoption by groups or individuals who volunteer to perform periodic cleanups at least four times a year for two years. The groups pick the dates, and the City will provide orange trash bags, safety vests, and signs to alert motorists. We'll even pick up your collected trash! For more information, call Lynchburg's Waste Management Division, 804-847-1806.

Be a City Program Walker

People who walk for their health can help the health of the environment at the same time. The City Walkers Program, sponsored by Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg Inc., registers volunteers who agree to pick up litter as they walk. These conscientious residents receive safety vests, litter getters, a hat, and special garbage bag stickers, which grant them free pickup for their collected litter. If you'd like to join this program, call 528-2366.

Build America Beautiful

If you are a contractor, ask your chapter of the National Association of Home Builders about this program. Or call 1-800-223-2665 to find out what you can do to keep your construction site clean.

Don't Trash Lynchburg

- set an example by not littering
- carry a litterbag in your car
- make sure that your trashcans have lids and that your trash is secure in a container when you put it out
- don't place trash bags where animals may tear into them
- make sure side and top doors on dumpsters are closed
- cover or anchor loads in trucks
- recycle to reduce the amount of trash you produce

Join Bo in the fight against litter!

Bo is the official mascot of Lynchburg's Waste Management Division. He is working hard to get the message out about litter—and Bo is a big fan of the Adopt-A-Street program.

